



## Senate

General Assembly

**File No. 368**

February Session, 2016

Substitute Senate Bill No. 177

*Senate, March 31, 2016*

The Committee on Education reported through SEN. SLOSSBERG of the 14th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the Senate, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

### ***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY DECLINING STUDENT ENROLLMENT.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

- 1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) (a) There is established a task force
- 2 to study declining student enrollment in the state. The task force shall
- 3 be responsible for collecting and analyzing state-wide school-age
- 4 demographic data for the purposes of considering possible changes to
- 5 the laws regarding state funding for education and the geographic
- 6 boundaries of school districts. The task force shall conduct a study that
- 7 examines state-wide trends in the movement of the school-age
- 8 population and enrollment in public schools. Such study shall include,
- 9 but need not be limited to, (1) an examination of and explanation for
- 10 the causes of the reduction of the school-age population in the state, (2)
- 11 a determination of whether such reduction is the result of a naturally
- 12 occurring cyclical pattern, and if so, the expected duration of such
- 13 reduction, (3) an analysis of such reduction on future investments and
- 14 expenditures in education in the state, (4) an examination of trends in

15 the movement of the school-age population into and out of rural,  
16 suburban and urban areas, and (5) recommendations for changes in  
17 state law to allow for flexibility in the expansion or regionalization of  
18 existing school districts.

19 (b) The task force shall consist of the following members:

20 (1) Three appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,  
21 one of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of  
22 Boards of Education, one of whom is a professor at a public institution  
23 of higher education in the state with expertise in real estate and urban  
24 economic studies and one of whom is a representative of a regional  
25 council of government;

26 (2) Three appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, one  
27 of whom is a representative of the Connecticut Association of Schools,  
28 one of whom is a certified teacher in a public school and one of whom  
29 is a representative of the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities;

30 (3) One appointed by the majority leader of the House of  
31 Representatives, who is a representative of the Connecticut  
32 Association of Public School Superintendents;

33 (4) One appointed by the majority leader of the Senate, who is a  
34 person with expertise in demography;

35 (5) One appointed by the minority leader of the House of  
36 Representatives, who is a person with expertise in economics;

37 (6) One appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who is a  
38 person with expertise in workforce development;

39 (7) The Commissioner of Education, or the commissioner's designee;  
40 and

41 (8) A representative of the Connecticut State Data Center at The  
42 University of Connecticut.

43 (c) Any member of the task force appointed under subdivision (1),

44 (2), (3), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection (b) of this section may be a member  
45 of the General Assembly.

46 (d) All appointments to the task force shall be made not later than  
47 thirty days after the effective date of this section. Any vacancy shall be  
48 filled by the appointing authority.

49 (e) The speaker of the House of Representatives and the president  
50 pro tempore of the Senate shall select the chairpersons of the task force  
51 from among the members of the task force. Such chairpersons shall  
52 schedule the first meeting of the task force, which shall be held not  
53 later than sixty days after the effective date of this section.

54 (f) The administrative staff of the joint standing committee of the  
55 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education  
56 shall serve as administrative staff of the task force.

57 (g) Not later than January 1, 2017, the task force shall submit an  
58 interim report and not later than January 1, 2018, a final report on its  
59 findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the  
60 General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education,  
61 in accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general  
62 statutes. The task force shall terminate on the date it submits such  
63 report or January 1, 2018, whichever is later.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section

**Statement of Legislative Commissioners:**

In section 1(a), former subdivision (4) was redesignated as subdivision (3) for clarity.

**ED**            *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

**OFA Fiscal Note****State Impact:**

Agency Affected	Fund-Effect	FY 17 \$	FY 18 \$
Various State Agencies	GF - Potential Cost	Less than \$1,000	Less than \$1,000

Note: GF=General Fund

**Municipal Impact:** None**Explanation**

There may be a cost of less than \$1,000 in FY 17 and FY 18 to those agencies participating in the task force to reimburse legislators and agency staff for mileage expenses.

**The Out Years**

There is no ongoing fiscal impact because the task force terminates in FY 18.

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**OLR Bill Analysis**

**sSB 177**

***AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY DECLINING STUDENT ENROLLMENT.***

**SUMMARY:**

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 28 Nay 3 (03/14/2016)